

NEW YORK MIRROR

DAILY AND SUNDAY

99018

235 EAST 45TH STREET
MURRAY HILL 2-1000

January 29, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8 BJA/ACL

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63-15

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On January 19 Mr. Winchell sent you a letter. I have just received the copy with several pencilled changes, which he asked me to call to your attention.

On page 1, a correction in the second line should make it read: "Airport Development Program," etc.

On page 2, it should read (middle of page last sentence) He told me he was bound for Recife.

I hope this is clear.

sincerely,

Rose T. Gorman
for Walter Winchell

*per my records
per Jackson
in front of
2-16-43*

303

*Corrections indicated
in Winchell's letter 1/19/43
del*

RECORDED

62-31615-29
278
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122

ACS:vj

February 13, 1943

RECORDED - 31615-298

Mr. Walter Winchell
The New York Mirror
235 East 45th Street
New York, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8 BTJ/bcl

Dear Walter:

I want to acknowledge receipt of
your recent letter and enclosures.

The changes which you requested
to be made in your letter of January 19, 1943,
are being made, and you may be assured the
items which you forwarded will be given prompt
consideration by this Bureau.

With kind personal regards,

Cordially,

J. Edgar Hoover

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Mumford _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
★ FEB 15 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEB 15 9 39 AM '43
 RECEIVED DIRECTOR
 F B I
 U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

EW
light



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 18, 1943

[Redacted] b-6

Dear [Redacted]

In the absence of the Director, this will acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date.

I have carefully noted the content of your letter and you may be assured it will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,
For the Director

Edward A. Tamm

Edward A. Tamm
Assistant to the Director

*File
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us*

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WJ
60 MAR 22 1943

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Dear Sir,

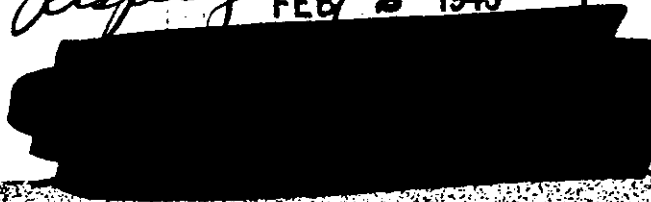
③ WINCHELL Why isn't WALTER
Winchell investigated? His
common vulgarity over the
Jergens lotion is disgusting.
Other people have been shut
up for less and even transferred
to other communities.

His gloating and glee at
another persons down fall
is beyond any decent thinking
person. He doesn't tell the truth
and certainly tells military
secrets. d 140

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-31615-299

Respectfully
FEB 8 1943



b6

b-6



Dear Sirs,

Why isnt Walter Winchell investigated? His common vulgarity over the Jergen's Lotion is disgusting. Other people have been shut up for less and even transfered to other communities.

His gloating and glee at another persons down fall is beyond any decent thinking person. He doesn't tell the truth and certainly tells military secrets.

Respectfully

b-6



True copy - vj

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40 SEP 14 1964

126



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 24, 1943

SWR:AM
Broadcast: 9:00 P.M.
Dictated: 11:00 P.M.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Holloman _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
January 24, 1943

The following items, which appear to be of interest to the Bureau, were commented on by Mr. Winchell in his broadcast on the above date.

1. Denaturalization Proceedings, Alien Enemy Control.

Margaret F. Seidel

Mr. Winchell stated, "On January 16 the Associated Press reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was holding Mrs. Margaret F. Seidel, 36 years of age. Mrs. Seidel was in the trusted employ of Andrew Jergens, my sponsor. She is being held for investigation of violating the Enemy Alien Act. Mr. Jergens, stated the Associated Press, aided the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the investigation. This is to further report that Mr. Jergens cooperated fully with the Federal Bureau of Investigation many months ago, on complaints about Mrs. Seidel turned over to John Edgar Hoover and Mr. Jergens by this newsboy."

As you will recall, Mrs. Seidel was apprehended on January 11, 1943 as a dangerous enemy alien, violating the alien enemy traveling regulations, in that she did travel from Los Angeles, California to Cincinnati, Ohio, without the proper permit. The Department is fully aware of the facts in this case and prosecution has been authorized, for internment, but not criminally. The inquiry originated on outside information, [redacted]

2. Consolidated Denaturalization Trials

Mr. Winchell commented, "That the Federal Bureau of Investigation will institute denaturalization proceedings against a great number of naturalized Americans accused of aiding the enemy. The spotlight will also be turned on their influential Washington, D. C. backers."

As you are aware, the Department has been conducting consolidated denaturalization proceedings in New York City against the leaders and members of the German-American Bund. Cases are proceeding at the present time in Newark, New Jersey, and will start in Philadelphia on the 25th of this month. The exact significance of Mr. Winchell's remark, that the spotlight will be turned on their influential Washington, D. C. backers, is not known and is not apparent from the proceedings held today.

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40 SEP 14 1964

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64-31615-300

39 FEB 21 1943

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3. War Frauds.

Mr. Winchell states, "The War Department tomorrow will issue subpoenas against several persons connected with Wright Field for collecting graft. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Lieutenant Colonel William O'Dwyer, the former District Attorney in Brooklyn, uncovered the dirty work."

Apparently Mr. Winchell is talking about an investigation being conducted concerning the Baker-Lockwood Manufacturing Company, Incorporated, Kansas City, Missouri. On December 18, 1942 the Bureau received a memorandum from the War Frauds Unit of the Department requesting an investigation concerning this Company. The complaint was to the effect that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was conspiring with the officials of several steel and tent companies to "rig" bids on a \$3,667,050.00 contract for airplane shelters. Through the manipulation [REDACTED] the Baker-Lockwood Company received the contract and the other firms in the conspiracy submitted high bids so that the Baker-Lockwood Company would be the successful bidder. As you are aware, the investigation of this matter is continuing at the present time and the Department is fully aware of the developments. Lieutenant Colonel O'Dwyer, as you are aware, has advised that the investigation resulted from an inquiry, which apparently was made by himself and other Air Corps Investigators concerning the activities of [REDACTED]

4. Matters of General Interest to the Bureau.

Mr. Winchell mentioned that the sedition cases against thirty-three persons now under indictment will be tried by United States Attorney General Biddle. William Powell Maloney, who did the foundation work will, according to Mr. Winchell be appointed Chief of the Trial Division of the Department of Justice.

Mr. Winchell mentioned that Thurman Arnold of the Department of Justice is slated to go on the Bench of the District of Columbia Superior Court next month. He stated that Attorney General Biddle will continue the vigorous campaign against illegal price fixing combines.

Mr. Winchell remarked concerning the activities which took place on the floor of Congress pertaining to Congressman Houston of Kansas and Congressman Claire Hoffman of Michigan. Mr. Winchell stated that Congressman Houston challenged Congressman Hoffman to prove his libelous comments or "shut-up". According to Mr. Winchell, Congressman Hoffman demanded among other things that Walter Winchell and the Department of Justice be investigated by Congress. According to Mr. Winchell, Mr. Hoffman in a one hour tirade carelessly stated that the thirty-three persons indicted for sedition were persecuted, not prosecuted. Mr. Winchell said that Congressman Houston replied, "Mr. Hoffman, did you mean to state that the Americans on those Federal Grand Juries were part of any conspiracy when they indicted and convicted those who championed sedition? Do you mean that the convicted George Sylvester Vierick, William Dudley Pelley and all the others, some

of who admitted their guilt were persecuted? I say it is a good thing that somebody did investigate them. I say they ought to be thankful that we have citizens who have the boldness and sagacity to strike out against these enemies of our country." According to Mr. Winchell Congressman Houston continued, "that we should all praise the Department of Justice for taking action. I say these people who are working against these enemies deserve better treatment than to be slandered and vilified on the floor of Congress." According to Mr. Winchell, Congressman Houston presumed that Congressman Hoffman turned his fire on the wrong persons. Congressman Hoffman should be mad at the conspirators, not the reporters who dug up the facts or the prosecutors who acted on it.

Mr. Winchell remarked that the investigation of the Black Market in meat will start in Congress tomorrow afternoon at 12:00 P. M. He further stated that the public is asked in the meantime to withhold blaming the butcher and the wholesalers. He stated, "it is alleged that a stupid OPA regulation forces them to sell at $23\frac{1}{2}\%$, meat that costs them $27\frac{1}{4}\%$ to produce."

- Respectfully,


S. W. Reynolds

CT:DSS

January 26, 1943

Mr. Walter ^① Finchell
Veracities Hotel
Miami Beach, Florida

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8 BTJ/GCL

Dear Walter:

Your letter of January 19 was not received until January 25, and, consequently, it was not possible to get in touch with you concerning the subject matter prior to your broadcast of last Sunday.

It was good to hear you on the air again. I hope that you will have a good rest and that you will remain in Florida as long as possible.

With kindest regards from all of us here,

Sincerely,

John

JAN 26 4 14 PM '43
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Mumford _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

*Let's see if I can find a contact
1/11/43
D12*

RECORDED

62-31615-301

FEB 15 1943

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 10 20 A.M.
DATE 1-27-43
BY S.W.L.

55 FEB 16 1943

DML:mm

February 10, 1943

MR. T. F. PHELPS
MR. JOSEPH A. SIZOO

The following assignments are being made with regard to the covering of the special radio news commentators on Sunday evenings, these assignments being effective as of Sunday, February 14, 1943.

The specific assignments should be carefully noted by the Section Chief in order that the assignment may be properly supervised the same as any other work performed in the particular section involved.

PEARSON AND ALLEN BROADCAST T. F. PHELPS
WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST JOSEPH A. SIZOO

It is desired that the above supervisors arrange to listen to these broadcasts each Sunday evening and note those items of interest to the Bureau, making sure in each instance that items of interest are prepared in memorandum form and placed on my desk not later than 8:45 A.M., the following day. It will, of course, be permissible for the above supervisors to communicate with the supervisors actually on duty at the Bureau on Sunday night as to the preparation of the necessary memoranda. However, Messrs. Phelps and Sizoo will be responsible in each instance to follow up and see that the memoranda are actually prepared. Any reference to matters of interest to the Bureau should be specifically commented on and a brief memorandum prepared of the facts concerning such matters as known to the Bureau or as contained in the Bureau files, together with the action which has been taken; that is, whether the information has been furnished to the Attorney General for consideration, has been furnished to G-2, ONI, et cetera.

These Agents will also be held strictly responsible to see that items of interest requiring immediate action receive proper attention in order that the necessary action may be taken without delay. In case of doubt or questions as to the action that should be taken, Mr. Mumford or myself should be consulted by tele-

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____

Mr. Ladd _____ Arrangements have been made for the Laboratory to record both of the boys' broadcasts each Sunday and to immediately send the record of the broadcast to my office. Play-back equipment is available in the Translation Section.

Mr. Carson _____ It is suggested that you confer with Special Agents E. M. Curch and S. W. Reynolds, who, for some time past, have been covering the Pearson and McGuire Allen and Walter Winchell Broadcasts respectively.

Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. _____

Mr. Alden _____
Mr. Welch _____
Mr. Coffey _____

55 MAR 5 1943

MAR 2

RECORDED 62-31615-302

FEB 11 1943

Very truly yours,
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/23/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ku

Walter Winchell

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

JAS
Broadcast 9:00 P.M.
Typed 10:45 P.M.

February 14, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
February 14, 1943

The following items, which appear to be of interest to the Bureau were commented on by Mr. Winchell in his broadcast on the above date.

1. Registration Act, Sedition, and related matters

ROBERT EDWARD EDMONDSON

Mr. Winchell stated that, "Among the very first persons accused by this newsboy in 1933, was a man named Robert Edward Edmondson of New York and Pennsylvania, because of a suspected connection with Nazi propagandists. At the time, I was called hysterical, an alarmist, a war monger, and other things for doing so. This is to report that Robert Edward Edmondson, who is among the thirty-three indicted for alleged sedition, finally admitted that link last week. In a District of Columbia court, Edmondson said that he had exchanged propaganda material with the Nazi World Service of Erfurt, Germany. Edmondson also admitted to the prosecutor, that is the Department of Justice prosecutor, that he had accepted free service on German liners before the war for his exchange of propaganda material, and that this service was arranged for him by the German Consul in New York City."

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GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK
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62-31615-304



40 SEP 14 1943 mentioning free-speech and a newspaper's duty, as he called the right of full and fair criticism of public officials. Mr. Winchell stated that, "Drew Pearson exposed and helped to jail ex-governor Leach of Louisiana, Boss Pendergast of Kansas City, and his entire machine, and the convicted Nazi agent, George Sylvester Viereck, who contrived to use the franking privileges of the late United States Senator Lundeen."

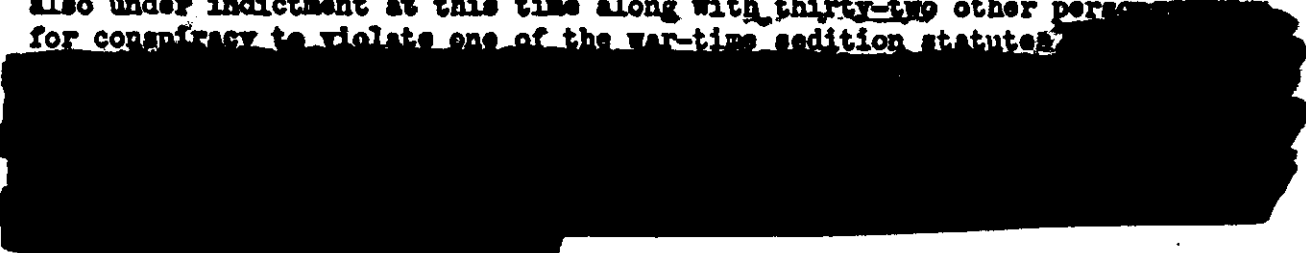
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9-14-64

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You will recall that George Sylvester Viereck was convicted on March 5, 1942, for filing false registration statements in violation of Section 233 (e), Title 22, U. S. C. (The McCormack Act), and was sentenced to serve a term of from two to six years, and fined \$1,500. Viereck is also under indictment at this time along with thirty-two other persons for conspiracy to violate one of the war-time sedition statutes.

b-6
b7c



2. Communist matters

HARRY BRIDGES

Mr. Winchell stated, "Sacramento, California. United States Attorney General's ruling against Harry Bridges was sustained in a California Federal Court this week. Harry Bridges was ordered deported by the Department of Justice. His appeals will continue in the higher courts. This is to remind listeners that this reporter was the very first to expose Harry Bridges' communistic activities in the United States."

The Bureau has, of course, been fully advised at all times as to the Bridges developments, including the ruling in the California Federal Court referred to by Mr. Winchell.

3. Matters of General Interest

Mr. Winchell stated, "To the Editor of the New York Herald Tribune: In last Sunday night's broadcast in the story of counter espionage, there was no mention of the G-men or the FBI. I distinctly said 'Federal authorities'".

Mr. Winchell was undoubtedly referring to the comment he made last Sunday to the effect that "Federal men dropped the rumor in various hotel lobbies and offices in Washington that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill were away on a trip. Twenty-four hours later the Nazi short-wave radio announced it. Then the Federal men circulated another phony report, to wit, that Roosevelt and Churchill were to meet each other somewhere in Canada. Shortly after the Nazi radio announced that too. How the Federal men did it must remain their secret until after the war, but the result was most exciting. Federal men have trapped 22 men, some of whom are high in government circles." Mr. Nichols advised last Sunday night, with reference to this material, that he believed that Mr. Winchell's remarks were based on a United Press release with a London date-line that false information had been given out by Federal authorities in Washington, and as a result, Nazi agents had been trapped.

134

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Page 3.

Mr. Winchell also remarked, "New York. Another New York gang war has broken out. Tony Lato, alias "Tony the Horse", one-time strong-arm hoodlum for Chicago gangsters is in a coma at the Gouverneur Hospital in New York. The police say his wounds may prove fatal. The gangster was found in a hallway with four chest wounds made by an ice pick."

Respectfully,


J. A. Sizoo

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

UC-287

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**



JAS:MED
Broadcast 9:00 P.M.
Dictated 10:45 P.M.

February 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
February 21, 1943

The following items, which appear to be of interest to the Bureau, were commented on by Mr. Winchell in his broadcast on the above date.

1. German Matters

German-American Bund

Mr. Winchell stated, "Fort Wayne, Indiana. One of the convicted Nazi agents sentenced to eighteen months started a cross-country tour of the nation, accompanied by a United States Marshal. This convict and Bund member is on a singing tour. He's singing. He will testify against his best friends in the German-American Bund for the Government at several cities including Cleveland, Chicago, and San Francisco. First stop - Fort Wayne, Indiana."

*It is believed that the individual referred to by Winchell in this comment is Willy Luedtke, who was one of the twenty-eight Bund members indicted in New York for conspiracy to violate the Selective Service Act. He entered a plea of guilty and was sentenced to eighteen months in prison. He is now assisting the government by testifying in proceedings with reference to the denaturalization of members of the German-American Bund. It might also be stated that the denaturalization of some of these individuals is now underway in Fort Wayne.

2. Communist Matters

National Maritime Union

Mr. Winchell stated as follows, "St. Louis, Missouri. The following wholopping editorial from the St. Louis Star Times had this to complain about a very short lived recent hearsay allegation that merchant seamen refused to unload cargo

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136

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

at Guadalcanal and that fighting United States Marines were forced to unload that ship. The fact, says the St. Louis editorial, that there was no official verification and that Admiral Halsey of the Navy and United States Marines debunked it did not deter such immoderates as Representative Clair Hoffman of Michigan, who, assuming the whole truth of the story, took the floor of Congress in an arm-waving exhibit of rancor and attack. Mr. Hoffman and others joined in the vituperation and engaged in reckless vilifying criticism. They are not above dynamiting national unity in the midst of a war. What was accomplished? Nothing but the resentment by the merchant sailors whose patriotism it impuned, and who are risking their lives in waters all over the world. It represents the sort of discord and disunity which Adolph Hitler delights in seeing among those who oppose him, concludes the editorial from the St. Louis Star Times."

The statement with reference to the alleged refusal of merchant seamen to unload cargo at Guadalcanal has previously been brought to the Bureau's attention. This story, in which it was alleged that the seamen were members of the National Maritime Union, was first printed in the Akron, Ohio, Beacon Journal, and is reported to have been cleared for release by the Beacon Journal by Censorship as not revealing anything of military interest. It was thereafter picked up by the Associated Press and reprinted in the New York Journal American and Chicago Tribune. A libel suit has now been filed by the National Maritime Union against the Associated Press and the New York Journal American asking damages in the amount of \$2,000,000 and similar suits are contemplated against the Akron, Ohio, Beacon Journal and the Chicago Tribune in the near future. The Director has been kept currently advised of all developments in this matter. When this story was first published, information was received that the National Maritime Union considered a smear campaign against Censorship for having cleared this story. Mr. Byron Price was immediately furnished with information concerning the possible smear campaign.

3. Matters of General Interest to the Bureau.

Dies Committee

Mr. Winchell stated, "Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The current issue of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Catholic denounces what it calls the technique of smearing employed by Congressman Martin Dies. The readers of this publication came to the defense of a very highly respected Pittsburgh businessman whose name was included in a list of individuals whom Congressman Dies considers guilty of un-American activities. The name

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

of this very highly respected businessman of Pittsburgh is omitted by me now and not by any censor, editor or regulation. Mr. Dies did not accuse the highly respected businessman of being a Communist nor did he say that this man had Communistic leanings. Mr. Dies' chief interest, complains the Pittsburgh Catholic, seems to be the fastening of the Communist label on anyone he doesn't like and many readers undoubtedly jump to the conclusion that the Pittsburgh businessman was another victim of Congressman Dies' color blindness. It would be a relief, said the Pittsburgh periodical, if the tiresomely familiar headline 'Dies Committee Charges' were to be replaced just once by the words 'Dies Committee Proves'."

The Pittsburgh businessman referred to by Mr. Winchell appears to be Mr. Frederick C. McKee, who is reported to have been interested in various peace movements in the United States. He is a wealthy Pittsburgh businessman and is presently Chairman of the Committee known as "Help America by Aiding England."

Clipping attached

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Respectfully,

J. A. Sizoo
J. A. Sizoo



OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. McGuire ✓
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Boehm _____
Miss Gandy _____

From Walter Winchell:

I ENCL. 18

Remove papers from all lists
Remove from [unclear]
Call [unclear]

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DATE 8/27/84 BY SP9 BTJ/GCL

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62-31615-306

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EX-32

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Handwritten initials

Winchell Still Talks Of Medal For Hoover

Hasn't Yet Learned Why Congress Won't Give Congressional Medal To J. Edgar Hoover

Representative John Taber's opposition to awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, again was brought to public attention Sunday night by Walter Winchell in his weekly radio broadcast.

With all the facilities which Mr. Winchell must have at his command for getting the news, it is surprising that he does not understand why Mr. Hoover has not been given the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Although Mr. Taber considers Winchell's attacks as very trivial, the truth concerning his opposition is enlightening. He is simply opposed to awarding the medal to civilians, since it is an established custom that only military men be so honored. This position is supported by all war veterans and by many other members of Congress.

Fact is, Winchell is trying to upset an old tradition in favor of his intimate friend, Hoover. Now, Taber and Hoover are friends, and the former said he valued Hoover's work as much as anybody. However, he sees no reason why a civilian should be given a military medal.

Winchell said some time ago that Taber was the only Congressman opposed to a medal for Hoover. He further stated that Taber was the only Representative to vote against a medal for Hoover.

No vote was ever taken on a medal for Hoover, hence Mr. Taber could not have voted against such a proposal. Speaking from the floor, however, he opposed this idea. So many Congressmen agreed with Mr. Taber's ideas against setting the precedent of awarding a military medal to non-military men that the proposal was dropped.

But Winchell apparently hasn't found that out, as yet. He thinks that he can make Congress think he thinks. He wants Hoover to have the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Probably Mr. Hoover would enjoy a boost in pay.

The Lyons Republican
The Clyde Times
Lyons, New York
November 26, 1942

*See Mr. Winchell
1-22-43
msh*



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

~~SECRET~~

Communication #313

AMERICAN EMBASSY
London, England
February 16, 1943

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR COURIER POUCH
~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Attention: Mr. Kimball

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your open cablegram, transmitted by Western Union and dated February 10, 1943, which advised that a United Press dispatch by Robert Dawson, United States press correspondent in London, had referred to a story in the London Daily Sketch stating that Allied intelligence agents in the United States had given fake reports of a meeting in Washington and that as a result an important group of German spies were arrested. You instructed that the writer secure any details available on the background of this story, and advised that you had been unable to verify these facts in Washington.

For your information, there is being transmitted a clipping of this article, entitled "INSIDE INFORMATION" which appeared in the Daily Sketch of January 27, 1943.

[REDACTED]

As soon as a report is received on this matter, you will be advised.

Very truly yours,

Arthur M. Thurston

Arthur M. Thurston
Inspector ENCLOSURE

Classified by *SP8 BTJ/CC*
Declassify on: OADR *9/5/84*

AMT:WGR
Enclosure

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RECORDED

EX-4

62-31615-307		
F	B	I
15 MAR 14 1943		
<i>[Signature]</i>		

141

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OTHERWISE

INSIDE INFORMATION



● An important group of Nazi spies have been run to earth in U.S. as a result of the Allies' complete and deliberate deception of the Wilhelmstrasse over the Churchill-Roosevelt meeting at Casablanca. Here is a brief history of the trick which to-day makes Nazi espionage the world's laughing-stock:

★ ★ ★
● On January 3, Nazi propaganda gave "first news"—from (they said) a source connected with the U.S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee—that a Churchill-Roosevelt meeting was planned in Washington. Europe was told all about it.

★ ★ ★
● Thereafter the Nazis gave periodical information to Europe of the time of the meeting, Mr. Churchill's arrival in Washington, and the subjects discussed. As late as yesterday evening, when British newspapers were preparing to announce the facts to-day, German radios were giving circumstantial details of what was happening to Mr. Churchill in Washington.

★ ★ ★
● What the Nazis did not know was that the "news" of the Washington meeting had been planted in certain quarters for two purposes: (1) To deceive; (2) to trap certain people who were expected to pass on the false information and so give themselves away. They did.

★ ★ ★
● Attempts are being made by the German High Command to drop tablets containing strong doses of cocaine to the men trapped in Stalingrad. A number of planes carrying these cargoes are understood to have got through.

★ ★ ★
● This is believed to be the first time the Nazis have attempted to relieve war-strain in this way by air, though it is known that many of their air pilots in the blitz on London carried drugs.

★ ★ ★
● Von Sthorer, former Nazi Ambassador to Spain, who was recently recalled, is to become second-in-command of the Ibero-American propaganda organisation in Berlin. This is part of the move to keep Argentina "on the fence," which we revealed recently.

★ ★ ★
● Von Sthorer is expected to go to Buenos Aires soon to attempt to reorganise Nazi propaganda there—but in the guise of leader of a "economic mission" to plan for after-the-war trade. His activities should be watched.

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/27/84 BY SP8 BTJ/g~~

62-31615-307
ENCLOSURE

DAILY SKETCH
London, England
Wednesday
January 27, 1943
Page Two.



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

GCB:MGK

March 3, 1943

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Kramer _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

ph

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8 BJD/KCL

Re: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST,
February 7, 1943

On February 7, 1943, Walter Winchell stated in his regular Sunday night broadcast that based on a false report that had been planted by American Intelligence Agents, 22 German spies had been rounded up. The purported planted report referred to the President Roosevelt - Prime Minister Churchill meeting. You advised the writer that it had been learned from Walter Winchell that the source of his story was G-2. You instructed the writer to determine from G-2 if Military Intelligence or Air Intelligence had been responsible for this story, if this matter had been referred to Thurston in London for inquiry, and to find if there was a newspaper story referring to the meeting which specifically stated that the meeting was in Canada.

Colonel Bissell was contacted to learn if G-2 or Air Intelligence had been responsible for this story, and Colonel Bissell checked thoroughly in his own organization. He called Colonel Hinman, who is the Assistant, G-2, of the Second Service Command. Colonel Bissell stated that absolutely the story did not originate from Washington and that Colonel Hinman had emphatically denied that G-2 in New York had anything to do with it. I checked with Colonel Brock who is the Executive Officer for Air Intelligence and was advised by Colonel Brock that no such story originated with Air Intelligence.

On February 9, 1943, the following cablegram was dictated by Mr. Nichols and dispatched to Thurston:

"The United Press dispatch by Robert Dawson, United Press correspondent in London, referred to a story in the London Daily Sketch stating Allied Intelligence Agents in the United States had given fake reports of a meeting in Washington and as a result an important group of German spies were arrested. Desire to secure any details possible on background of this story. For your information Bureau unable to verify facts in Washington."

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On the above date, a partial reply to this was received from Agent Thurston. This consisted of a clipping from the London Daily Sketch for Wednesday, January 27, 1943 and is part of a column called "Inside Information."



55 MAR 12 1943

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MAR 14 1943

143

The pertinent parts are quoted below:

"An important group of Nazi spies have been run to earth in U. S. as a result of the Allies' complete and deliberate deception of the Wilhelmstrasse over the Churchill-Roosevelt meeting at Casablanca. Here is a brief history of the trick which today makes Nazi espionage the world's laughing-stock:

* * *

"On January 3, (Nazi propagandagave 'first news'-from (they said) a source connected with the U. S. Senate Foreign Affairs Committee—that a Churchill Roosevelt meeting was planned in Washington. Europe was told all about it.

* * *

"Thereafter the Nazis gave periodical information to Europe of the time of the meeting, Mr. Churchill's arrival in Washington, and the subjects discussed. As late as yesterday evening, when British newspapers were preparing to announce the facts today, German radios were giving circumstantial details of what was happening to Mr. Churchill in Washington.

* * *

"What the Nazis did not know was that the 'news' of the Washington meeting had been planted in certain quarters for two purposes: (1) To deceive; (2) to trap certain people who were expected to pass on the false information and so give themselves away. They did."

Mr. Thurston advised that further inquiries regarding the source of this report are being made, and that as soon as a report is received, the Bureau will be advised.

With reference to your instructions to find a newspaper story alleging that the meeting was to be held in Canada, please be advised that a complete review was made of all the Washington newspapers about that time with no success. However, There was submitted to the Bureau a clipping from the New York Herald Tribune for February 9, 1943 entitled "Winchell's 'Trap' Story Is Repudiated by FBI", and is sub-titled "U.S. Gave Out No False Rumors on Roosevelt Trip." This article is date lined Washington, February 8, from the Herald Tribune Bureau and states that the Bureau denied any knowledge of the Winchell report to the effect that 22 persons, some of them in high Government circles, had been trapped

Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

Page three

when they relayed a message to Germany that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill were meeting in Canada.

Representative clippings from the Washington papers are attached for your information. As soon as the further material is received from Thurston, it will be called to your attention.

Respectfully,



G. C. Burton



Attachment



Nazis Spies Duped on Roosevelt Trip

LONDON, Jan. 27—The Daily Sketch "inside information" column asserted today that an important group of Nazi spies had been run to earth as a result of the Allies' "complete and deliberate deception of the Wilhelmstrasse over the Churchill-Roosevelt meeting."

Reviewing Axis propagandists periodical broadcasts hinting that Churchill was in Washington, the Daily Sketch columnist said that "what the Nazis didn't know was that 'news' had been planted in certain quarters firstly to deceive and secondly to trap certain people who were expected to pass on false information and so give themselves away.

"They did."

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Taken from
THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
January 27, 1943

ENCLOSURE

62-31615-307

146

Fake Parley Tip

Traps Spy Ring

Berlin Tricked Into False Belief Churchill Was Here

By ROBERT DOWSON

LONDON, Jan. 27 (U.P.).—Germany, completely misled on the Roosevelt-Churchill conference, heaped denunciation on the President today and the Nazi Vichy Radio echoed that "Frenchmen" had hoped they would be spared such new effrontery as an Allied meeting on French empire soil.

The London Daily Sketch, discussing the complete secrecy which protected the conferees at Casablanca, said Allied intelligence agents in the United States had given fake reports of a meeting in Washington to suspected Axis agents and as the result "an important group" of German spies had been arrested.

German Radio Three Hours Late

It was not until 6 a.m. (1 a.m., E.W.T.), three hours after the news had been released to the world, that German radios heard here reported that the President and Prime Minister Winston Churchill had met at Casablanca.

The OWI reported that the Germans broadcast the fact of the Casablanca conference at 4:45 p.m. E.W.T. yesterday in an English language Morse code program—45 minutes after it was announced.

All last night, in broadcasts in many languages, the German and other Axis radios had told in detail how Churchill had gone to Washington to confer with the President, who, they said, had demanded new bases in the British Empire in return for supplies for Britain.

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DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8 BJD/602

Taken from
TIMES HERALD
Washington, D. C.
January 27, 1943

ENCLOSURE

62-31615-307

142

Radio Berlin offered fantastic explanations today as to why the meeting was held at Casablanca instead of Washington.

In an English-language broadcast it said that the President "decidedly did not want Churchill to come to the United States, because of America's embarrassment toward the British for the appointment of Marcel Peyrouton to the governorship of Algeria."

Casablanca, the Axis radio asserted, was selected "after General Eisenhower had flown to Washington to present his views."

Berlin also reported that the Congress was "furious" at the President because he did not ask its permission to leave the country, "as President Wilson did after the last war."

Germany's first broadcast putting the conference on the right side of the Atlantic merely quoted, in French and German, the fact that it had been held and the names of those who took part. It carried the news under an Amsterdam date, in keeping with the

German policy of faking the places of origin of broadcasts on events in Allied countries.

"Effrontery" to Vichy.

Next the Nazi Vichy radio said: "The general opinion was that Churchill had gone to Washington to confer with the President, but this time the two statesmen met at Casablanca. The choice of Casablanca, that great city of our empire, deals a severe blow to the sentiments of Frenchmen, who had believed we would be spared such new effrontery."

At 9 a.m. (4 a.m. EWT) Berlin gave its first comment, in an official German news agency dispatch:

"Roosevelt's theatrical appearance in French territory, conquered without fighting, was symbolic of United States imperialism.

"Roosevelt's statement regarding a desire to see the strongest coalition in world history destroyed shows a lack of a sense of reality for which he will be punished by the future course of events.

"That he wishes the European peoples to bleed white while fighting against Bolshevism confirms that he is one of the greatest criminals in world history."

Germany quoted "political quarters" that the situation in North Africa and differences between the "invasion powers" there—America and Britain—and French dissidents had necessitated the personal intervention of the President and Churchill.

Propaganda, That's All

"Internal differences which can not be bridged have to be camouflaged by a bombastic meeting with the usual democratic propaganda bluff," this broadcast said.

It was said that the Allied bulletin on the meeting referred to "offensive action" only to conceal submarine losses.

"Berlin considers that all that is being said on the offensive action subject in Allied declarations is mere propaganda," Berlin said.

As late as 7:15 p.m. E.W.T. yesterday, Berlin was broadcasting such stories as:

"Stockholm — the outcome of the conference in Washington is being awaited in London with the utmost interest."

Axis Had It That Parley Was Here Fake Tips on Churchill Trapped German Spies

By ROBERT DOWSON

United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, Jan. 27—Germany, completely misled on the Roosevelt-Churchill conference, heaped denunciation on the President today and the Nazi Vichy radio echoed that "Frenchmen" had hoped they would be spared such new effrontery as an Allied meeting on French Empire soil.

The London Daily Sketch, discussing the complete secrecy which protected the conferees at Casablanca, said Allied intelligence agents in the United States had given fake reports of a meeting in Washington to suspected Axis agents and as the result "an important group" of German spies had been arrested.

It was not until three hours after the news was released to the world last night that German radios reported that the President and Prime Minister had met at Casablanca.

All last night, in many languages, German and other Axis radios had told in detail how Churchill had gone to Washington to confer with the President who, they said, had demanded new bases in the British Empire in return for supplies for Britain. Later the Nazi Vichy radio said:

"The general opinion was that Churchill had gone to Washington to confer with the President but this time the two statesmen met at Cas-

ablanca. The choice of Casablanca, that great city of our empire, deals a severe blow to the sentiments of Frenchmen, who had believed we would be spared such new effrontery."

At 4 a. m. EWT Berlin gave its first comment:

"Roosevelt's theatrical appearance in French territory, conquered without fighting, was symbolic of U. S. imperialism."

The German radio offered fantastic explanations today why the meeting was held at Casablanca instead of Washington. Berlin said in an English-language broadcast that the President "decidedly did not want Churchill to come to the United States because of America's embarrassment toward the British for the appointment of Marcel Peyrouton to the governorship of Algeria."

Casablanca, the Axis radio asserted, was selected "after Gen. Eisenhower had flown to Washington to present his views."

Taken from
THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
January 27, 1943

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DATE 8/27/84 BY SP2 BTJ/602

62-31615-367
ENCLOSURE

149



Federal Bureau of Investigation
 United States Department of Justice
 Washington, D. C.

February 19, 1943

LBN:FML

- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Kramer _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON ✓

I talked to [redacted] the Washington Bureau of the New York Herald Tribune. I inquired with further reference to the New York Herald Tribune story regarding the FBI and Winchell. I told him that I was curious to know if he ever had an opportunity to check back on the source of the statement: "The next suggestion was that the FBI be contacted 'since everyone knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Winchell.'"

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b7c

[redacted] stated the matter was closed as far as he was concerned, that he did not intend to do anything further about it, and did not intend to tell us anything further about it.

I told him it was my understanding he was going to look into the matter and, regardless of whether he could tell us exactly who made the statement, I had taken him at his word that he would drop by and see us. I further pointed out it was of much importance to us to know whether the author of the phrase "the next suggestion" was the Herald Tribune or some other agency.

He again replied by stating that he did not care to discuss the matter further. I told him if that was the way he felt about it, it was up to him, and hung up.

I now think we should write a communication to Mr. Ogden Reid. If you approve, a communication is attached.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
 L. B. Nichols

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February 19, 1943

LBN:FML

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 8/30/84 BY SP8 BJA/ace

Mr. Ogden Reid
Editor
New York Herald Tribune
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Reid:

I am somewhat reluctant to burden you with a seemingly inconsequential matter, but I want to call your attention to a story which appeared in the February 9, 1943, issue of the New York Herald Tribune, carrying a Washington dateline of February 8. This story referred to Walter Winchell's broadcast on Sunday night, February 7, wherein he indicated that 22 persons, some high in Government circles, had been trapped as a result of false tips which had been put out and shortly thereafter had been used on the German short-wave radios.

On Monday, February 8, Mr. Leo Cullinane of your Washington Bureau, called one of my assistants in my absence. In the course of his conversation, Mr. Cullinane inquired as to the correctness of Mr. Winchell's broadcast. My assistant answered his inquiry by stating that the FBI had not taken the action claimed by Mr. Winchell and furthermore, as far as the FBI was concerned, we were not advised of the case to which Mr. Winchell referred and that our only knowledge of this situation appeared to be a United Press dispatch carrying a London dateline which appeared approximately two weeks before, wherein it was stated that according to a story in the London Daily Sketch, intelligence agencies in the United States, by catching and false rumors, had trapped Axis spies.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Harbo

Mr. Cullinane then stated he had called the Army and Navy, that as a matter of fact the Navy suggested my call the FBI because everyone knew I was a very close friend of Mr. Winchell's and was always feeding him inside material. At that time, my assistant told Mr. Cullinane if he would give the name of the official in the Navy who had made that

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 12
FEB 25 1943 P.M.
CC - Mr. McGuire

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statement he, my assistant, would advise the Navy spokesman that he was circulating a falsehood. My assistant also told Mr. Cullinane that regardless the fact remained that neither I nor any other official in the Bureau furnished this information or any other inside information to Mr. Finchell. Mr. Cullinane declined to name the source in the Navy who had referred him to me which was, of course, perfectly proper. When the item appeared in the Herald Tribune, a check was made at the Navy Department and I have been advised that the Naval Officer who received Mr. Cullinane's inquiry, made no such statement as stated in the Herald Tribune story.

In view of the implication that I was furnishing inside information to Mr. Finchell - and the fact would be the same if I were furnishing information to any other newspaper representative to the exclusion of others - I naturally was most desirous of setting the record straight. After checking with the Navy, my assistant called [redacted] of your Washington Bureau. [redacted] kindly stated he understood how we could very well not appreciate the story, particularly in view of the fact that Congressman Hoffman had inserted it in the Congressional Record. However, [redacted] pointed out he felt the story was fair and that it was our duty to carry our denial. [redacted] took the position that in the statement which read as follows: "Navy Department officials said they knew nothing of the matter, and the next suggestion was that the FBI be contacted 'since everyone knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Finchell,'" the term "the next suggestion" did not mean the Navy Department made the statement. [redacted] pointed out it was not the intention of the Herald Tribune to cast any aspersions whatsoever upon the Federal Bureau of Investigation and I, of course, knew this is the case in view of the very fine relationship which we have always had over the years.

I am sure you will appreciate my concern over the statement that I furnish material to Mr. Finchell, which infers that it is to the exclusion of others, or that I furnish him with exclusive material of any type whatsoever. This is definitely a practice which I have always frowned upon and the only instance wherein I have ever tolerated such practices has been where a representative of the press has come to me with information he has developed on his own initiative. In such a case it is only fair to give that particular newspaper representative every possible break in so far as the release of the case is concerned, as a recognition of his fairness in

furnishing us information and withholding its publication which might injure our work.

At the time my assistant talked to [redacted] last week, [redacted] stated he was going to look into the story. He also stated that he would probably not be able to furnish us with any details which was perfectly proper. I would be the last one to expect any newspaperman to violate a confidence. Today, my assistant called [redacted] and inquired if he had an opportunity to check into the matter further and if there would be any possibility of at least naming the organization who was the author of the phrase "the next suggestion ..." (if it was not the Navy Department, [redacted] replied he considered the matter closed, that he was not going to say anything further about it, and that he had no intention of identifying in any way the source of the organization or the individual who made the next suggestion. b-6

The fact that the statement as it appeared in the Herald Tribune does carry the connotation it was the Navy who had referred your Washington correspondent to the Bureau "since everyone knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Finchell," is further emphasized by the fact that the Cincinnati Times-Star has seen fit to comment on this editorially and states definitely that it was the Navy who made the suggestion. I am enclosing a copy of this editorial for your information.

While I am not writing you to inquire as to the identity of the person who made the suggestion that "everyone knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Finchell," I definitely want to point out that I would hate to think this was a gratuitous phrase inserted by a representative of your paper. At the same time I know that with your sense of fairness, you can well appreciate my desire to confront any individual who charges me with a dereliction of my duties and that is exactly what the statement in the Herald Tribune implies.

I, of course, do not propose to even suggest any further inquiry into the matter although I do think in all fairness that the matter which I am complaining about and which has been stated as a fact, even though the denial was carried, was most unfair unless it was based upon a specific source.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure *ca*



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 11, 1943

LBN:JS

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd ✓
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire ✓
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8 BTB/60L

With reference to the New York Herald Tribune story of February 9, 1943, wherein a statement is made "Navy Department officials said they knew nothing of the matter and the next suggestion was that the FBI be contacted since everyone knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Winchell." Apprized of this, a Hoover spokesman heatedly denied that Mr. Hoover feeds out anything to anyone.

I called [redacted] Washington correspondent. He stated that he would be tied up over the week-end in connection with the American Newspaper Editors Conference. Accordingly, I mentioned this matter to him over the phone. He stated he knew exactly how we felt about the matter, that he was very sorry their story had been worded as it was although he stated the story does not state the Navy Department officials made the statement alleged but merely stated "and the next suggestion was" I told him this was quibbling; that it could be interpreted that the Navy Department officials said they knew nothing and naturally when the story came out this would infer to the average person that it was the Navy Department who were making the statement. He said he appreciated this and he was very sorry about it; that he frankly felt if they were to elaborate on this matter that it would merely accentuate it and make it more pointed; that he naturally was going to take Cullinane to task and then check into the matter very thoroughly.

He stated he had a vigorous protest from Commander Berry of the Navy Department yesterday; that he has not yet had a chance to talk to Cullinane but would do so, although he was frank to say that he would not tell us who made the suggestion.

I told him that I thought when he had a chance to talk to Cullinane he would find that Cullinane pulled this out of thin air. He stated that, of course, he had to pick up for his men until he found them wrong. I told him until it was proved to the contrary, Cullinane was the author of



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59 MAR 9 1943

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Memo for Mr. Tolson

-2-

the story as far as we were concerned and gratuitously inserted this statement.

b-6

[redacted] said he would come over the first of the week at which time he would like to talk to us further. I do think that [redacted] is probably right in saying it would be a mistake to print anything more on this and carry a retraction.

He further expressed his embarrassment over the way Congressman Hoffman picked up the story. He stated he hoped in the very near future he could come over to the Bureau and personally secure the type of story that could be run on the Bureau which would absolutely convince us that in so far as he and the New York Herald Tribune are concerned they have nothing but the greatest admiration for the Bureau. I told him we were not out seeking publicity.

I suggest no further action be taken on the matter at this time.

Respectfully,

[Handwritten signature]

L. B. Nichols.

I agree. Of course we want no public retraction but if N. Y. Tribune is going to support such rat-traps, Dunham as Cullinane makes up then it must be judged accordingly. I am amazed that such a paper would indulge in such tactics.

d.

Memo 2/19
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2-19-43
LBN

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FROM

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

- Mr. Tolson _____ ()
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____ ()
- Mr. Clegg _____ ()
- Mr. Coffey _____ ()
- Mr. Glavin _____ ()
- Mr. Ladd _____ ()
- Mr. Nichols _____ ()
- Mr. Rosen _____ ()
- Mr. Tracy _____ ()
- Mr. Carson _____ ()
- Mr. Hendon _____ ()
- Mr. McGuire _____ ()
- Mr. Mumford _____ ()
- Mr. Piper _____ ()
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____ ()
- Mr. Nease _____ ()
- Miss Gandy _____ ()

JS

W.M.

- See Me _____ ()
- Note and Return _____ ()
- Remarks: _____

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 DATE 8/27/84 BY *SP8 [signature]*

[Signature]

Winchell's 'Trap' Story Is Repudiated by F. B. I.

U.S. Gave Out No False Rumors on Roosevelt Trip

From the Herald Tribune Bureau
WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation vehemently denied all knowledge today of a report which originated in London and was revived again last night in a New York radio broadcast to the effect that twenty-two persons—some of them high in government circles—had been trapped when they relayed a message to Germany that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill were meeting in Canada.

According to the stories, the F. B. I. in an effort to stop a "leak" in Washington, put out a purposely misleading story at the time of the Casablanca conferences, that the President and Prime Minister were meeting in Canada. The idea apparently was to see whether and how quickly this false story would reach Germany, and to apprehend, if possible, the persons who sent the message. Less than twenty-four hours later, according to the German short-wave radio announced the false news of the Canadian meeting, and as a result the men involved were trapped.

A spokesman for J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the F. B. I., was ready to answer questions about the story today. He began by saying that he had been answering them all throughout last night since the radio broadcast of Wal-

ter Winchell, columnist for "The Daily Mirror" of New York, had revived the reports.

The spokesman said there was no false rumor circulated, there were no men taken into custody by the F. B. I. And further "the F. B. I. knows nothing about this particular case."

Efforts to check the War Department's G-2 (Army Intelligence) as to the veracity of the report, likewise proved unavailing. However, the War Department facetiously suggested that "since Mr. Winchell is a commodore of some sort, you'd better contact the Navy."

Navy Department officials said they knew nothing of the matter, and the next suggestion was that the F. B. I. be contacted since every one knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Winchell. Apprised of this the Hoover spokesman denied that Mr. Hoover feeds out anything to any one.

A "spot check" of Winchell's column by the NEW YORKER a popular magazine revealed that for accuracy the Navy's "pride and joy" was batting well below 50%!

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/27/84 BY SP8BJ/la

62-31615-309
ENCLOSURE

Did you know Winchell is a self-confessed dupe of Axis agents?

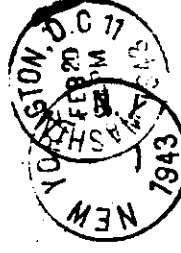
MR. CONGR'SMAN:



THIS MAN SAYS --
you are a traitor



GRAND CENTRAL
ANNEX



MAR 23
RECEIVED

Hon.

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

DAILY MIRROR

Walter Winchell In New York

Progressive members of the American First Speakers Bureau... Hitler is losing on the ground in Russia, in the air over Germany and on the sands of Africa. He seems to win only in Congress!

phase of the smear campaign. Sunday, July 26, he told his nation-wide toilet lotion audience:

"Nearly everyone who printed scurrilous articles has been the direct cause of those who put the same things in the Congressional Record... But, honorable—all of them will be compensated by the same charge after November 8th."

And speaking of "sabotage," on July 12th Lieutenant Commander Walter Winchell, U.S.N., after saluting the FBI for capturing the eight saboteurs landed from U-boats, asked his radio audience:

"How about the voters going after these other saboteurs who landed in Congress?"

A few days later he concluded his gossip columns with the cowardly after implying treason:

"Another reason some congressmen are demanding the right whenever he dares to show they might talk too much."

Since the United States entered the war, Lt. Comdr. Winchell has written and broadcast a continuing barrage of jibes and blasts at Congress, and has referred to the elected representatives of the people as "dopes," "harm," "sorkheads," and "saps."

In this the kind of treatment the Legislative branch of the Government should expect from a commissioned officer?

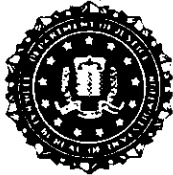
In the August 15 issue of Liberty he writes a scurrilous piece about "Americans We Can Do Without in Congress—Yes, within the so-called sacred portals of the Congress of the United States."

"An officer," according to the Articles of War, is prohibited from employing "contemptuous or disrespectful words against... Congress of the United States," and if found guilty of such conduct "shall be punished as a court-martial shall direct."

As Lt. Comdr. Winchell would say... "Why isn't something done about it?"

above clippings reproduced from --
"NATIVE NAZI purge plots" * the Conspiracy against Congress
CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE, Inc., 542 Madison Av NYC

FEBRUARY 8 1948



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

February 10, 1943

LBN:FML

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

With reference to the Walter Winchell broadcast and the article which appeared in the New York Herald Tribune on February 9, 1943, I wish to refer to the statement which appeared in the Herald Tribune article "Navy Department officials said they knew nothing of the matter and the next suggestion was that the FBI be contacted 'since everyone knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Winchell.' Apprized of this, a Hoover spokesman heatedly denied that Mr. Hoover feeds out anything to anyone."

I endeavored to contact Captain Lovette. However, Captain Lovette and Commander Slim Beecher with whom I am well acquainted, are presently in Florida and from there are headed to the West Coast. Commander Robert Berry was acting in charge as Lovette's assistant. I called on Commander Berry and explained the situation to him.

He stated he had seen the Herald Tribune but had been out of his office all day today and yesterday and had not had an opportunity to check on the matter. I do know that Berry has been out of his office all day today as I have called on various occasions to talk to him.

Berry called for the log and I would judge that some sort of a recording device is used. Leo P. Cullinane of the Herald Tribune did call [redacted] Monday around noon. He referred to the Winchell broadcast and [redacted] replied by stating "that the Navy had no comment to make, that the Navy was not advised of the situation referred to in Winchell's broadcast."

In this connection I wish to point out that I have known [redacted] personally over a period of years.

[redacted] has written many favorable stories on the Bureau and did some checking for me on matters in connection with the smear campaign two years ago. He has always been very friendly and I am confident he would never make such a statement.

Commander Berry stated he would like to send for [redacted] and question him about this. He did send [redacted] and in my presence questioned him about this in a very tactful manner.



55 MAR 13 1943

218

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send for [redacted] and in [redacted]

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asking just what [redacted] had said. [redacted] advised he merely stated in response to the inquiry that the Navy had no comment to make and was not apprized of this situation. [redacted] stated at no time in the conversation was the FBI mentioned nor was the Director mentioned.

[redacted] further stated he knew Cullinane, not intimately, but he was a smart-aleck type and at one time, prior to the Herald Tribune being short on manpower, merely sat at the telephone and took stories called in by various reporters in shorthand.

Commander Berry stated that he knew [redacted] of the New York Herald Tribune Bureau in Washington, that he would call [redacted] immediately and point out he just had an opportunity to check up on the story and to keep the record straight he wanted [redacted] to know that he had investigated this matter and that no one in the Navy had made the statement alleged. Berry suggested that we also either tackle Cullinane or [redacted] on the matter.

I also wish to direct your attention to the attached clipping of a story which appeared in the Times Herald on February 10, 1943, quoting Congressman Hoffman wherein Hoffman quotes the article which appeared in the New York Herald Tribune.

I am also attaching hereto the Congressional Record for yesterday wherein on Page 771 you will note the comments made by Congressman Hoffman.

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I recommend that I call [redacted] on the telephone and ask him to come to the Bureau at which time I will outline Cullinane's conversation, the Navy investigation, and the Navy's denial that they had furnished the information to Cullinane. I will further point out that since Cullinane's story is [redacted] a matter of record quoting a Navy official and stating that the Director feeds stuff to Winchell, that even though our denial is carried in the Congressional Record and in the press, the records should be corrected and Cullinane should either prove his statement or there should be a retraction.

I do not think we should write to Ogden Reid. My feeling is predicated upon the thought that if the Director made a formal protest to the editor that this might be interpreted as being a defense. Furthermore, by taking the matter up directly with [redacted] it is believed that he would be given an opportunity to correct this matter without bringing the wrath of his editors down on him and this might be more advantageous from the Bureau's standpoint in the long run.

Respectfully,


L. B. Nichols

160

Vinson Promises Full Inquiry Into Status of Walter Winchell

Walter Winchell, the Navy lieutenant commander who fights on the ether waves, encountered hot water on two fronts yesterday as a result of his radio smear campaign against critics of himself and his New Deal pals.

Representative Carl Vinson (D.), of Georgia, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, promised in the House a full public inquiry by Congress into the radio gossip's activities. He said Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and other high officials will be summoned before his committee on the matter next week.

Radio Clamps Down

In New York, officials of the Blue radio network clamped unprecedented rules of conduct on Winchell because of his use of profanity on the air in calling "plain damn fools" those who voted last fall for the return to Congress of prewar noninterventionists.

The Navy Department disclosed for the first time that Winchell was on active duty on January 31 when he used the "damn fool" epithet in his broadcast. The disclosure was made in written answers to a series of questions concerning Winchell which were introduced in a resolution by Representative Clare E. Hoffman (R.), of Michigan. Representative Vinson indicated he is not satisfied with the Navy's answers to the questions put to them.

Hoffman demanded to know why Winchell, who took a leading part in the Administration's attempts to purge political opponents, has not been court-martialed and dismissed from the Navy for his contemptuous remarks about Congress and conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.

Dismissal Rule Cited

The Michigan Representative cited in his resolution the section of the United States code which reads:

"An officer who uses contemptuous or disrespectful words against the Congress of the United States shall be dismissed from service or suffer such other punishment as a court-martial may direct."

Hoffman took the floor to charge that Winchell told a false story in a broadcast Sunday night when he said the Federal Bureau of Investigation recently released misleading information on purpose in order to trap German agents in this country. He quoted denials of the Winchell story by the FBI, the Army, and the Navy.

He said War Department officials suggested that the Navy be called because, as the Army spokesman put it, "Winchell is a commodore of some sort." The Navy spokesman, Hoffman continued, suggested that J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, might know since

eral commentators recently have departed from these standards and from their prepared scripts to discuss controversial issues in a biased and inflammatory manner."

The Woods statement did not mention any commentators by name but it was learned that network officials were on hand in Miami and Washington last Sunday to supervise personally the broadcasts of Winchell and of Drew Pearson, political gossip columnist, who has commented on the 33 persons awaiting trial here on sedition charges.

Before their broadcasts, both Winchell and Pearson were handed copies of old regulations and three new rules forbidding derogatory or insulting remarks about Members of Congress, the President's Cabinet, or any other person holding any public office.

Winchell Says Status In Navy No Secret

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 10. Walter Winchell, when told that Representative Vinson (D.), of Georgia, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, had announced plans for a public hearing of his status in the Navy, said:

"My status in the Navy is no secret. I am on inactive duty, recuperating from a nose and throat ailment as a result of my flight to Brazil, during which we made 14 landings in three days. My condition is responding favorably to treatment by physicians and Florida's sunshine."

Tells of Navy's Orders

"The Navy has told me: 'Your duties will be announced after the war is over. You are not to reply to any kind of attacks, published or otherwise. That is part of your game.'"

"I just have to sit back and take it. I hope Representative Vinson and his committee will be told the facts. The Navy knows that I am always ready for a call to action. Tomorrow or the next hour I may be called to active duty."

"It may interest the public to know that I have not cost the taxpayers one cent for my services in the Navy. My rank is lieutenant commander. Three times since December 7, 1941, I have been on inactive duty. At no time since I entered the Navy in 1934 have I accepted any salary, expense or other gratuities of any kind for my Navy service."

"I have paid for my own uniforms and my own expenses on assignments. I paid my own way on the Brazil trip. Every Navy pay check I have ever received has been signed over to the Navy Relief Fund. This is not the first time Chairman Vinson has questioned me."

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Washington Times Herald
February 10, 1943

62-31615-310
ENCLOSURE

161

of the Winchell story by the FBI, the Army, and the Navy.

He said War Department officials suggested that the Navy be called because, as the Army spokesman put it, "Winchell is a com-modore of some sort." The Navy spokesman, Hoffman continued, suggested that J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, might know since he "feeds such stuff to Winchell." An FBI spokesman heatedly de-nied that Hoover feeds anything to anyone.

Assails Commentator

"I contend," Hoffman said, "that if Mr. Winchell is an officer in our Navy and supposed to be fighting the Axis powers he certainly should have enough to occupy his time and should not be permitted to think up and circulate false rumors of this kind."

In a series of cryptic replies to Hoffman's questions, the Navy said part of the code cited applies only to Army officers. As for the regulations pertaining to Navy officers, the Navy said, Winchell's statements were not regarded as infractions. The department admitted that no action had been taken on any of the instances of alleged infractions.

The new radio rules were applied to Winchell's broadcast in New York last Sunday, but came to light for the first time when Marshall Field's New York sneer sheet, PM, which is known as the uptown edition of the Communist party, Daily Worker, lamented the network's "gag."

Officials Attend Broadcast

"The Blue network demands that all broadcasts be in good taste," explained Mark Woods, president of the network. "Ser-

for my Navy service.

"I have paid for my own uniforms and my own expenses on assignments. I paid my own way on the Brazil trip. Every Navy pay check I have ever received has been signed over to the Navy Relief Fund. This is not the first time Chairman Vinson has questioned me."

Winchell said he would remain in Miami Beach until next week and then go to Washington for the hearing.

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ENCLOSURE

1162

Winchell's 'Trap' Story Is Repudiated by F. B. I.

U.S. Gave Out No False Rumors on Roosevelt Trip

From the Herald Tribune Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation vehemently denied all knowledge today of a report which originated in London and was revived again last night in a New York radio broadcast to the effect that twenty-two persons—some of them high in government circles—had been trapped when they relayed a message to Germany that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill were meeting in Canada.

According to the stories, the F. B. I., in an effort to stop a "leak" in Washington, put out a purposely misleading story at the time of the Casablanca conferences that the President and Prime Minister were meeting in Canada. The idea apparently was to see whether and how quickly this false story would reach Germany, and to apprehend, if possible, the persons who sent the message. Less than twenty-four hours later, according to the story, the German short-wave radio announced the false news of the Canadian meeting, and as a result the men involved were trapped.

A spokesman for J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the F. B. I., was ready to answer questions about the story today. He began by saying that he had been answering them all throughout last night since the radio broadcast of Walter Winchell, columnist for "The Daily Mirror" of New York, had revived the reports.

The spokesman said there was

no false rumor circulated, there were no men taken into custody by the F. B. I. And further "the F. B. I. knows nothing about this particular case."

Efforts to check the War Department's G-2 (Army intelligence) as to the veracity of the report likewise proved unavailing. However, the War Department facetiously suggested that "since Mr. Winchell is a commodore of some sort, you'd better contact the Navy."

Navy Department officials said they knew nothing of the matter, and the next suggestion was that the F. B. I. be contacted "since every one knows J. Edgar Hoover feeds such stuff to Mr. Winchell." Apprised of this the Hoover

spokesman heatedly denied that Mr. Hoover feeds out anything to any one.

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ENCLOSURE

New York Herald Tribune
2/9/43

163

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



LRN:JS

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 27, 1943

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Kramer _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR

Handwritten signature
MR. TAMM

With reference to the attached United Press story which is appearing in today's issue of the Washington Daily News regarding the alleged arrest of Axis agents as a result of a fake report which was put out by intelligence officers, I have been called by all wire services regarding this and have been answering by stating we had no comment to make.

I did tell Mullen of UP confidentially and off the record, as well as Tyse of INS, that we knew nothing about this.

Mullen of UP is of the opinion that this story was planted on their correspondent in London.

The thought occurs that it might be well to ask OSS, G-2 or possibly ONI if they have anything.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature
L. B. Nichols

Enclosure

Walter Wood

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" Axis Had It That Parley Was Here

FAKE TIPS ON CHURCHILL TRAPPED GERMAN SPIES

By Robert Lowson
U.S. Press Correspondent

London, Jan. 27 -- Germany, completely misled on the Roosevelt-Churchill conference, heaped denunciation on the President today and the Nazi Vichy radio echoed that "Frenchmen" had hoped they would be spared such new effrontery as an Allied meeting on French Empire soil.

The London Daily Sketch, discussing the complete secrecy which protected the conferees at Casablanca, said Allied intelligence agents in the United States had given fake reports of a meeting in Washington to suspected Axis agents and as the result "an important group" of German spies had been arrested.

It was not until three hours after the news was released to the world last night that German radios reported that the President and Prime Minister had met at Casablanca.

All last night, in many languages, German and other Axis radios had told in detail how Churchill had gone to Washington to confer with the President who, they said, had demanded new bases in the British Empire in return for supplies for Britain. Later the Nazi Vichy radio said:

"The general opinion was that Churchill had gone to Washington to confer with the President but this time the two statesmen met at Casablanca. The choice of Casablanca, that great city of our empire, deals a severe blow to the sentiments of Frenchmen, who had believed we would be spared such new effrontery."

At 4 a.m. EWT Berlin gave its first comment:

"Roosevelt's theatrical appearance in French territory, conquered without fighting, was symbolic of U. S. imperialism."

As late as 7:15 p.m. yesterday Berlin was broadcasting such stories as:

"Stockholm - The outcome of the conference in Washington is being awaited in London with the utmost interest." "

Washington Daily News
January 27, 1943.

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165



LBN:JS

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
February 9, 1943

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Clegg ✓
- Mr. Glavin ✓
- Mr. Ladd ✓
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen ✓
- Mr. Tracy ✓
- Mr. Carson ✓
- Mr. Coffey ✓
- Mr. Hendon ✓
- Mr. Kramer ✓
- Mr. McGuire ✓
- Mr. Harbo ✓
- Mr. Quinn Tamm ✓
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

RE: WALTER WINCHELL'S BROADCAST
February 7, 1943

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DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8BTD/GCL

Beginning at about 9:30 on Sunday night I received a series of press calls which continued all day yesterday and as late as 2:00 A. M. this morning. In each instance I acknowledged the inquiries by stating that nobody had been trapped by the FBI in a factual situation similar to that given out, nor did we know anything about the story. In each instance I suggested to the parties calling that if they wanted to check the story naturally they should go to its source.

Leo P. Cullinane of the New York Herald Tribune called me around noon yesterday. At the time I was on long distance. He told Miss Lurz he would wait and while waiting he made several sarcastic remarks about the Winchell story. I talked to him. He stated he had pressure on him from his New York office to run down the story. I told him to begin with that we had nothing to say about the story because we knew nothing about it; that the FBI had not taken anybody into custody, nor had they trapped anybody in a situation such as he made inquiry of. He then stated he had called the Army and the Army suggested he check the Navy as Winchell was a commander and his commanding officer should know the type of material he was giving out and the basis for it. Cullinane pointed out he had been facetiously brushed off at OSS and at the Navy. He stated as a matter of fact the Navy suggested he call here since everyone knew the Director was a very close friend of Winchell and was always feeding him inside material. I asked him the individual in the Navy who made this statement. He did not want to tell me. I told him he could tell this individual in the Navy for me that he was a "God Damn liar." Cullinane then went on to say that he knew for a fact that Winchell and the Director were very close friends. I told him that was beside the point, that naturally Mr. Hoover had a perfect right to have any friends he so desired, that neither he nor any "two-bit" newspaper reporter had any right to demand an explanation of an infringement. I did tell him that the Director nor nobody else in the Bureau had given this or any other inside information to Winchell; that as a matter of fact, Winchell

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Memorandum for Mr. Tolson

-2-

and all other newspaper reporters were treated alike; if they make inquiry and if we can answer, that naturally we try to help out. At this point Cullinane became very contrite. He stated he was sorry to have made the statements which he did as he knew there had been instances wherein we had helped him.

Around ten o'clock last night a representative of the Chicago Tribune called. I answered the inquiry exactly as I had answered all others. I referred him to Winchell. The Tribune man, whose name was Harvey, was probably the most decent in his conversation of any who had called. I, of course, gave him nothing.

At 2:00 A. M. the Associated Press called with reference to the Herald Tribune story. I furnished the same information to the AP representative, Mr. Charles Haslet.

At no time in answering any inquiries did I go beyond the FBI and very specifically limited my comments to the fact that the FBI knew nothing about this.

If you will recall, the United Press carried a dispatch under a London dateline which appeared in the Washington Daily News. This story was apparently based upon the London Daily Sketch story. I suggest that the attached communication go forward to Mr. Thurston immediately because I think we should try to run this story down if at all possible.

I would like to have the Director's approval to call Captain Leland Lovette at the Navy Department and give him the text of Cullinane's conversation with me, referring him to the Herald Tribune, and ask Lovette for the identity of the individual who gave out the statement and further tell Lovette this individual is an unmitigated liar. I also think we should go to OWI on this matter because obviously everybody is trying to put the Bureau in the middle.

Respectfully,

L. B. Nichols.

I think it is most desirable for Nicky to contact Lovette. I see nothing to be gained by calling OWI. I think Cullinane henceforth should be held at arms length & given no special assistance. S.

167



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	✓
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

SWR:es
Broadcast 9:00 P.M.
Dictated 10:50 P.M.

February 7, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: WALTER WINCHELL BROADCAST
February 7, 1943

file 2-8

to be

The following items, which appear to be of interest to the Bureau were commented on by Mr. Winchell in his broadcast on the above date.

1. Fugitive Matters

Lieutenant Joseph Anselmo Poli, with aliases

Mr. Winchell stated, "The Federal Bureau of Investigation has sent out a Department of Justice circular for the arrest of Second Lieutenant Joseph A. Poli of Oakland, California, wanted for Desertion. The Lieutenant escaped from the guard house at Fort Lewis, Washington."

As you will recall an Identification Order, dated January 29, 1943, has been circulated by the Bureau concerning Poli. As you are aware, the west coast offices of the FBI are actively attempting to locate Poli and every effort is being made to effect his apprehension.

2. Registration Act, Sedition Act and Related Matters

Mr. Winchell stated that, "The United States Attorney General Francis Biddle has ordered all Sedition cases to immediate trial. This should put at rest the current rumor that they would never be tried. O. John Rogge, the prosecutor, who won distinction by breaking up the Huey Long dictatorship in Louisiana, the full compliments of government experts and witnesses, including Special Prosecutor William Powell McLoney who did so much remarkable pioneer work on all these cases, will confer with Prosecutor Rogge tomorrow or Wednesday."

As you are aware, this appears to be the first indication that the Bureau has received that this action will be taken. It appears that no information has been received from the Department indicating when the Sedition cases will be tried.

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168

Gerald B. Winrod, et al

Mr. Winchell stated that, "In spite of newspaper stories in Washington, D. C. reported the other day that Prosecutor O. John Rogge will review the evidence in the 33 Sedition cases and that Mr. Rogge may drop those defendants against whom evidence is weak. If this is true, it is entirely inconsistent. The fact is that the evidence against each defendant was reviewed by a Department of Justice committee composed of the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and other high ranking Justice Department officials. before the cases were presented to two Federal grand juries. This means that the evidence against each defendant was twice reviewed in detail by the Department of Justice committee. In addition, two separate and distinct Federal grand juries voted indictments on the same evidence unanimously."

You will recall that a summary memoranda has been prepared and was forwarded to the Director under cover memoranda dated January 28, 1943, concerning information appearing in the Bureau files relative to the defendants in this case. As you are aware, information appearing in the Bureau files concerning some of these individuals indicated at best a weak case of violation of the Sedition Statute. As you are further aware, all the pertinent information which has been developed by the Bureau in regard to these defendants has been furnished to the Department.

3. Espionage

Mr. Winchell remarked, "The recent meeting of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill at Casablanca was used by certain Federal authorities to uncover a leak starting from Washington, D. C. The Federal men dropped the rumor in various hotel lobbies and offices in Washington that Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill were away on a trip. Twenty-four hours later the Nazi short-wave radio announced it. Then the Federal men circulated another phony report to wit that Roosevelt and Churchill were to meet each other somewhere in Canada. Shortly after the Nazi short-wave radio announced that too. How the Federal men did it must remain their secret until after the War, but the result was most exciting. Federal men have trapped 22 men, some of whom are high in government circles."

As you will recall, after it had been announced that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill had met at Casablanca, the United Press released a story with a London date line which appeared to indicate that false information had been given out in Washington by Federal authorities, and as a result had trapped Nazi agents. Mr. Louis B. Nichols advised the writer that he believed

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Jalson
AS
Call Walter & ask
for details as it is news to us &
we would want it. H. 169*

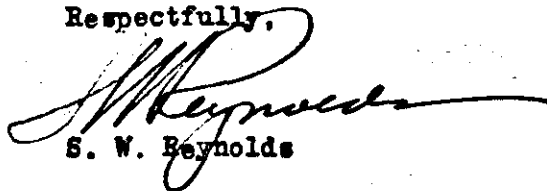
that Mr. Winchell's remarks were based on the above-mentioned United Press release. No information has been received by the Bureau which would verify the United Press release of London for the above quoted remarks of Mr. Winchell. As you are aware, no investigation is being undertaken by the Bureau in this regard.

4. Matters of General Interest to the Bureau

Mr. Winchell stated, "Albany, New York. Governor Dewey is quietly effecting a progressive state government. Powerful leaders of the American Labor Party have been consulted. This means that New York Liberals are being welcomed into an alliance with the Republican Party. It may mean a Republican sweep in New York State in 1944."

Mr. Winchell also stated, "London. The rumors that Adolph Hitler is dead are heavily discounted in the Allied capitals, especially in Moscow. In Moscow they are saying what of it. There are still a million and one-half war-making junkers and five million Nazi Party members in good standing. Europe says Moscow will never know any peace until all of them are powerless."

Respectfully,


S. W. Reynolds



CUNEO →
EW

LBN:JS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

February 9, 1943

RECORDED

62-31615-313

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

EX Transmit the following message to:

Mr. Arthur M. Thurston
The American Embassy
London, England

THE UNITED PRESS DISPATCH BY ROBERT DAWSON, UNITED PRESS
CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON, REFERRED TO A STORY IN THE LONDON
DAILY SKETCH STATING ALLIED INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN THE
UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN FAKE REPORTS OF A MEETING IN WASH-
INGTON AND AS A RESULT AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF GERMAN SPIES
WERE ARRESTED. DESIRE TO SECURE ANY DETAILS POSSIBLE ON
BACKGROUND OF THIS STORY. FOR YOUR INFORMATION BUREAU
UNABLE TO VERIFY FACTS IN WASHINGTON.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FEB 9 3 35 PM '43
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
F B I
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Holloman _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 9 1943

WESTERN UNION

SENT VIA MAP 1 5 1943

5.06 PM

Per [Signature]

-313

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[REDACTED]

Fortaleza, Brazil
February 4, 1943

Rio de Janeiro

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my telegram of today's date which stated in substance that the gossip that only three persons at the Embassy in Rio know the names of agents of the FBI had been published by WALTER WINCHELL in the MIAMI HERALD of February 1, 1943.

This morning the Vice Consul and I were handed a copy of this paper by Mr. CHARLES PEACOCK, Maintenance Superintendent of Pan American, when we were meeting the southbound courier. Mr. PEACOCK had apparently received this paper, as commonly occurs, from one of the crew or passengers of the plane, and handed it over with the comment that he had finished reading it.

Subsequently the Vice Consul noted in WINCHELL's column in this paper the statement: "Rio where only three at the Embassy know the identity of the F.B.I. agents." The column is headed, "WALTER WINCHELL, Memos of a Seafaring Columnist on Duty with Naval Units in the South Americas", and is datelined, "ABOARD A NAVAL TRANSPORT PLANE, NATAL, Brazil, January 5 (Delayed)". This clipping is being forwarded to the Ambassador by the Vice Consul.

It should be noted that copies of Miami newspapers are frequently left at the airport by persons passing through Fortaleza on Pan American planes, and they are widely read by Brazilians as well as local Americans. However, no comments on the above statements by WINCHELL have come to the attention of this office.

Very truly yours

[REDACTED]

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DATE 8/27/84 BY SP8BJJ/GCL

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File
no answer
required
3/10
✓

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Piper
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

Dear John:

This is what I call a ~~very clever~~ editorial. The editor seems to give me the best of it until the last three lines when he gives me the old 1, 2, and flattens me.

And you think you have an interesting public life! Ha, ha, ha.

Walter WINCHELL

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IS WINCHELL UNWANTED?

When Walter Winchell broadcast one Sunday evening the sensational announcement that his hero, J. Edgar Hoover, had nipped in the bud a group of German informers operating in this country, some persons were incredulous enough to look for some other authority for the statement besides Mr. Winchell. According to the reports of the broadcast, Winchell said that the false information was purposely circulated to the effect that Churchill and Roosevelt were meeting in Canada, and within an hour the Berlin radio was chorusing the canard; and that J. Edgar Hoover thereupon descended on the suspects to whom the bait had been fed, and thus fresh laurels were added to his brow.

The story was referred to the War Department at Washington where inquirers were requested with a smile to ask the Navy Department. "You know Winchell is a commodore, or something, in the Navy." Thus the War Department dismissed the questioner. The Navy Department, strange to say, was equally unwilling to claim Walter for their own. They referred the inquiry to the F. B. I. That outfit repudiated the story altogether.

While this was going on some members of Congress were restless under the criticism of Mr. Winchell. It seems they have asked the Navy Department why their "little boy Walter," as Walter used to describe himself on the air, is not disciplined for making remarks in derogation of the dignity of certain Congressmen, particularly those who were once isolationists.

The Navy Department has made a formal reply in which it is solemnly denied that anything Mr. Winchell has said merits putting him in irons. Item: On such a day Mr. Winchell said that Congressman X. printed subversive matters in the Congressional Record. Item: Another time Walter Winchell yelled over the radio that Congressman Z. would find out on Election Day what his constituents thought of his record before Pearl Harbor. Nothing contained therein requires official punishment to be meted out, said the Navy. It is now stated however that as of January 31, 1943, Mr. Winchell is on the inactive list.

Congressmen who have been offended by what Walter Winchell has said should remember a few rules for listening to his broadcasts: First: Never get as excited as he does. Second: Bear in mind that Winchell is not the original discoverer of patriotism. Third: When he begins to sermonize, turn him off.

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ENCLOSURE

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174

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
 Washington Field Division, 1435 K Street, N. W.
 Washington, D. C.
 February 5, 1943

TDW:cl
 62-4499

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	✓
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Coffey	✓
Mr. Glavin	✓
Mr. Ladd	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	✓
Mr. Carson	✓
Mr. Hendon	✓
Mr. McGuire	✓
Mr. Mumford	✓
Mr. Piper	✓
Mr. Quinn Tamm	✓
Mr. Nease	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Director, FBI

Re: SPECIAL INQUIRY - LAWSUIT BETWEEN
WALTER WINCHELL AND WASHINGTON
TIMES HERALD NEWSPAPER

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the telephonic request from Supervisor FRANK WELCH of the Bureau to this office on February 5, 1943, to ascertain the background and particulars of the lawsuit between WALTER WINCHELL and Mrs. CISSIE PATTERSON of the Washington Times Herald Newspaper.

It has been ascertained through an extremely confidential and reliable source that the difficulties between WALTER WINCHELL and Mrs. PATTERSON started when the Times Herald began to delete portions of WINCHELL's column from their paper. These deleted portions dealt with exposing certain isolationists, to-wit; Senator WHEELER, Senator NYE, and others, who were supporting the isolationist policies of the Times Herald newspaper.

This was first brought to the attention of Mr. WINCHELL by a Mr. GOLDENER, who was a faithful reader of WINCHELL's column over a period of ten years. He began to notice these deletions by comparing WINCHELL's articles in the Times Herald with those of the Daily Mirror. GOLDENER finally called WINCHELL on the telephone and advised him of these facts, along with information that he, GOLDENER, had called the Times Herald to determine why WINCHELL's column was only appearing three times a week instead of daily. The Herald answered his inquiry saying that WINCHELL was on active duty in the United States Navy and was only writing his column three times a week.

WINCHELL on his next Sunday broadcast, mentioned, "Attention Mr. GOLDENER" and at that time denied over the radio that he was only writing his column three times per week, and stating that he was being badly misinformed to that effect.

This was the first inkling that WINCHELL had of any difficulties with the Times Herald newspaper and on March 15, 1942, during one of his broadcasts, he made the following quoted statement:



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62-4499

Director, FBI
Re: SPECIAL INQUIRY - LAWSUIT BETWEEN WALTER WINCHELL
AND WASHINGTON TIMES HERALD NEWSPAPER
Page #2

"WASHINGTON:-- I wish that every American would read the back issue of the Congressional Record. . . It is a wonderful education. . . For example: On page 10548 -- for May the 27th, 1940 . . . You will see praise for an editorial on foreign policy . . . That editorial, Ladies and Gentlemen, was inserted and praised by the late Senator LUNDEEN of Minnesota . . . It was shown conclusively in Federal court this week -- that LUNDEEN worked and collaborated -- with the convicted Nazi agent GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERECK . . . It fascinates me -- to see how the pieces of the jig-saw puzzle fit together . . . That LUNDEEN contribution to the Congressional Record of May the 27, 1940 -- was an editorial -- from the Washington Times-Herald -- which buys, but suppresses -- and handcuffs -- my daily articles."

Mrs. PATTERSON at the time of WINCHELL's broadcast of the above, was in Florida and immediately had her lawyer in Washington, D. C., who is RUDOLPH YATEMAN, an authority on libel law, to institute libel proceedings against WALTER WINCHELL, the Blue Network, and the National Broadcasting Company. Later on, the Blue Network and the National Broadcasting Company were dropped as defendants in this case and at the present time, the Times Herald is proceeding only against WINCHELL.

It has further been ascertained that the Times Herald newspaper has always been an isolationist newspaper and has featured articles and editorials praising the stand of Senators LUNDEEN, WHEELER, NYE and others, and at the same time has by the admission of Lieutenant CHARLES G. DUFFY, who formerly edited WINCHELL's column for the Times Herald, deleted information which contradicted any of the editorials or articles favoring isolationism. Lieutenant CHARLES DUFFY has also admitted in a signed deposition that it would be silly for the Times Herald to print isolationist material and at the same time print other articles, to-wit: those of WINCHELL which contradict the policy of the paper and for that reason, these articles were deleted.

It was further ascertained that the apparent reasons the Times Herald dropped the Blue Network and the National Broadcasting Company as defendants in this case were twofold. First, they obviously felt that when presenting this case to a jury that WINCHELL would have an excellent defense for his alleged libelous statement which has been previously quoted in this letter to the effect that the National Broadcasting Company and the Blue Network thoroughly censor anything which is allegedly libelous because a commentator can read his material over the radio. Further, that

TDW:cl
62-4499

Director, FBI
Re; SPECIAL INQUIRY - LAWSUIT BETWEEN WALTER WINCHELL
AND WASHINGTON TIMES HERALD NEWSPAPER
Page #3

average layman has a high respect for the networks and realize how careful they are to prevent anything of this nature. Secondly, Mrs. PATTERSON is obviously out to get WINCHELL and belittle him in the eyes of the public, in order to protect the interests of her own newspaper.

WINCHELL's defense will probably be that the information which is the subject of this controversy and broadcast by him is absolutely true in every respect and that further, he was not trying to libel the Times Herald but only to put the true facts before the public, inasmuch as the Constitution allows a person the right of free speech. It was further ascertained that articles published by the Times Herald newspaper have been many fold more libelous against the President of the United States than this statement made by WINCHELL.

Mrs. PATTERSON by her own admission in a signed deposition, stated that since she has discontinued the columns of WALTER WINCHELL and DREW PEARSON, the subscriptions of the Times Herald have increased by many thousands, which refutes the fact that she and her paper have been injured as she claims in her libel suit.

The present status of this case is still uncertain and more definite information will be ascertained this afternoon, February 5, 1943, at which time a pre-trial hearing will be held. The date for the actual trial will most likely be set during this pre-trial hearing, the date of which will very likely be February 23, 1943.

The Bureau will be immediately advised of the exact date agreed upon by the pre-trial hearing for the actual trial.

For the information of the Bureau, the Times Herald is suing WALTER WINCHELL in the amount of \$200,000. The action will be tried in the United States District Court, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,


GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-87



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

March 17, 1943

DML:mm

Received: 10:25 AM

Typed: 1:45 PM

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Mumford _____
- Mr. Piper _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Gew

RE: WALTER WINCHELL

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J. Mumford

Mr. N. R. Howard, Executive 3800, Extension 111, Censorship, called and advised me that they had been having considerable difficulty with Winchell in connection with the Domestic Censorship Code. Mr. Howard stated that Winchell had apparently no understanding of the limitations of this Code and that yesterday he had published an item concerning the arrest of a woman in New York whom he stated had been an imposter and spy, parading in a WAVE uniform. The Domestic Censorship Code requires that appropriate authorization be given by a responsible agency when anything of this nature is published. The Censorship authorities immediately contacted Winchell for the purpose of learning the source who had authorized this release and Winchell stated that it was information he had picked up from a newspaper friend. In addition Mr. Howard advised that Winchell had made a serious break only last week and that he, Howard, was fearful that Censorship might have to bring the trouble into the open. Before doing this, however, he stated that he would like some word from the Bureau with regard to the above-mentioned arrest inasmuch as he thought that undoubtedly the FBI made the arrest. In the event it was an unimportant case of ours and had comparatively little significance, he stated that they might not take any action with Winchell. On the other hand, however, should the case be an important one, he felt certain that they would have to do something about it.

I told Mr. Howard that I would check on the matter, secure the details and advise him as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

ta

*"maintaining
losses"*



D. M. Ladd
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MAR 20 1943

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JBG:AL

March 18, 1943

Mr. Walter Winchell
New York Mirror
235 East 45th Street
New York, New York

Dear Walter:

It was indeed thoughtful of you to pass along to me the letter from Mr. John A. Reed, Reynal and Hitchcock, Incorporated, 300 Fourth Avenue, New York, New York, dated March 9, 1943. I feel sure that you understand my position in the matter he mentions, and I am returning the letter for your files.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Cordially,

John Edgar Hoover

(s) J. Edgar Hoover
Mailed by the Director

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DEPT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Tolson Enclosure
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. McGuire _____
- Mr. Mumford _____
- Mr. Piper _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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REYNAL AND HITCHCOCK, INC.

386 Fourth Avenue

NEW YORK

March 6, 1943

My dear Mr. Winchell:

A few years ago when I was in charge of trade sales and promotion for Little Brown and Company, Boston, I became greatly interested in the FBI and Mr. Hoover through the books that the late Courtney Riley Cooper wrote about the department. I even had two fingers in the editorial work on the manuscripts as well as being up to my ears in the promotion. That was in the days when the FBI was making kidnapping a poor gamble.

It seems to me that a highly exciting and useful book could be written about the war job that the department is doing. I am simply guessing, but I suspect strongly that it is due to that organization that we did not suffer more at the hands of Bundists and saboteurs. Maybe this must all wait until after the war. Maybe there is a story to tell now and another to tell after the war.

Unless I am much mistaken, Mr. Hoover won't write it himself. It should be written by someone outside who knows the department and has its confidence. My grapevine, which connects with yours by one tendril, tells me that you are the man. And that sounds like a winning combination.

Won't you please tell me how the idea strikes you.

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Sincerely yours,

/s/ John A. Reed

John A. Reed

Walter Winchell, Esq.
New York Mirror
235 East 45th Street
New York, New York

(But I have a contract with S & S)

ack
3/18/43

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

~~SECRET~~

Communication #368

AMERICAN EMBASSY
London, England
February 25, 1943

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. McGuire	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

VIA DIPLOMATIC AIR COURIER POUCH
PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Attention: Liaison Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter of February 16, 1943, Communication #313, which replied to your cablegram of February 10, 1943 concerning the United Press dispatch by Robert Dawson, U.P. correspondent in London which had referred to a story in the London Daily Sketch regarding the apprehension of a group of German spies in the United States.

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S) 62-31615-319

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ro nichols

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Declassify on: OADR 9/15/84*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

-2-

~~SECRET~~

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(S)

Very truly yours,

Arthur M. Thurston

Arthur M. Thurston
Inspector

AMT:WGR

~~SECRET~~

182